* Design, development and testing of Unmanned Submersible for operation upto 6000 m.

Technology Development (Metallurgy)

* Continuation of R&D work for improvement of metal recovery reduction in material/power consumption.

* A Demonstration semi continuous pilot plant of 500 kg. day at HZL.

* Validation of sulpharic acid pressure leach process route.

* Utilisation of the facility for lean ores wastes material for metal recovery.

(d) The recommendations of the Committee are being pursued by the department.

New programme for EEZ

5509 SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start a new programme for systematic research and a comprehensive survey of the EEZ;

(b) if so, what are the details of the programme;

(c) what are the benefits likely to accrue; and

(d) by when it is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Deparment of Ocean Development proposes to start a new programme for systematic research and a comprehensive bathymetric survey of the entire EEZ of India during the Tenth Plan;

(b) Under the programme the seafloor morphology of the Economic Zone extending to 200 nautical miles from the coast measuring about 2.02 millon square km., is proposed to be surveyed. The detailed three dimensional morphology is proposed to be obtained by using state-of-the-art-technology such as multi beam sonar.

(c) Detailed bathymetric data would be generated which will be useful in oceanographic research, resource evaluation and shall help in understanding the geomorphic evolution of the Indian coasts and continental shelf.

(d) The programme is likely to commence during 2002-2003.

National Mission on Bamboo applications

5510. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to launch a National Mission on Bomboo Applications;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when it is likely to be launched; and

(d) what are the targets being fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (d) A National Mission on Bamboo Applications (NMBA) is proposed to be launched in the current year by the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC). The Mission is intended to focus on the development and promotion of value-added applications, technologies and markets, utilising the country's considerable resources of bamboo. The Mission aims to catalyse and generate economic activity in this sector and facilitate employment and income generation, in particular in rural areas. Preliminary assessments indicate that incremental value addition of several hundreds of crores is capable of being realised through such an intervention.

Research activities in Antarctic Region

5511. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: